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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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December 18, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR

BRONSON TWEEDY
CHAIRMAN, NSCIC WORKING GROUP

FROM:

A. W. Marshall *AWM*

SUBJECT:

Review of Intelligence Support to NSSM 69

Attached is the second completed review of intelligence support to policymakers, the review of intelligence support to NSSM 69. I believe it raises several interesting issues:

-- Numerical estimates are expressed in several fashions -- single numbers, spreads of numbers and numbers with percentage variations on both sides. None of these are based on statistical techniques, but on different analyst's approaches to expressing the uncertainty he has about an estimate. We should consider more disciplined techniques for presenting such data.

-- Estimates of PRC logistic capabilities and force strength seem softer than one would infer from a quick glance. There may be a necessity to review both our methodologies and our means of communicating those estimates derived.

-- Apparently we have made significant progress in locating PRC missiles in the last six months, but the study suggests that appraisals of our capabilities have not reflected a balanced, systematic appreciation of the difficulties involved.

-- The study points out the need for careful guidance from and coordination with consumers, but also shows that in one case the intelligence response to a request did not address the issues asked for by the consumer.

Before the next Working Group meeting, I suggest we obtain comments from members of the Working Group on the study, the issues it raises and what actions might be selected for recommendation to the Principals

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NSC review(s) completed.

GDS

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for their consideration. Hopefully at the next meeting we will be able to discuss the study at some length and determine our recommendations to the NSCIC.

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